

REMARKS

In the August 12, 2009 Office Action, claims 22 and 26 stand rejected in view of prior art, while claims 19-21 and 23-25 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter. No other objections or rejections were made in the Office Action.

Status of Claims and Amendments

In response to the August 12, 2009 Office Action, Applicants have cancelled rejected claim 22 and amended claim 26 such that claim 26 only depends from allowable claim 23 as indicated above. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter and the thorough examination of this application. Thus, claims 19-21 and 23-26 are pending, with claims 19 and 23 being the only independent claims. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested in view of above amendments and the following comments.

Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action, claim 22s stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,399,361 (Brotherston et al.). In response, Applicants have cancelled claim 22 rendering the rejection moot.

Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

In paragraph 6 of the Office Action, claim 26 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Brotherston et al. patent in view of JP 2004-109082 (Hiroki et al.). In response, Applicants have amended claim 26 (formerly a multi-dependent claim) such that claim 26 now only depends from allowable independent claim 26, as mentioned above.

Applicants respectfully assert that since claim 26 depends from allowable independent claim 23, claim 26 is also allowable.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn in view of the above comments and amendments.

Allowable Subject Matter

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 19-21 and 23-25 were indicated as allowed. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter and the thorough examination of this application.

In response to the rejection of claim 26, Applicants have amended claim 26 such that claim 26 now only depends from allowable independent claim 23. Thus, Applicants respectfully assert that the claims are now in condition for allowance.

Prior Art Citation

In the Office Action, additional prior art references were made of record. Applicants believe that these references do not render the claimed invention obvious.

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In view of the foregoing amendment and comments, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 19-21 and 23-26 are now in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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